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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,364	01/24/2002	Tomoya Yoshida	02036/LH	2010
1933	7590	05/01/2006	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC			JOO, JOSHUA	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/057,364	Applicant(s) YOSHIDA, TOMOYA	
	Examiner Joshua Joo	Art Unit 2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to RCE/Amendment filed 3/20/2006

1. Claims 14-24 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 14-15, 17, 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama, US Patent #5,819,110 (Motoyama hereinafter), in view of Lodwick, US Publication #2005/0280864 (Lodwick).

4. As per claim 14, Motoyama teaches substantial features of the claimed invention including an administration system comprising:

an image forming apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network (Fig. 1; Col 3, line 18-25. First network comprising facsimile machine. Col 3, line 65-67. Firewall connected between first network and Internet.); and

a device located outside the first local network and connected to the Internet (Col 3, line 36-37. Monitoring device communicates through the Internet.);

wherein the image forming apparatus comprises:

a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the monitoring device through the Internet (Col; 8, lines 54-59; Col 11, lines 1-3. Notices of problems or warnings.

Col 9, line 65-Col 10, line 3. Receives information. Col 7, lines 1-6; Col 8, lines 59-63.

Transmit through the Internet.),

an accessing section which accesses the device and obtains restoration work information based on the trouble type information from the monitoring device through the Internet (Col 10, lines 4-5. Receives commands. Col 12, lines 59-67. Connection via Internet.), and

a control section which controls the image forming apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information (Col 10, line 5-6. Monitored device changes parameters. Col 10, line 14-16. Process simple or complex instructions.); and

wherein the monitoring device comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the image forming apparatus (Col 9, lines 55-60. Database stores various information regarding the monitored device including service history. Col 10, line 35-41. Database to describe malfunctions or other conditions.).

5. Motoyama teaches substantial features of the claimed invention including a monitoring device performing all the methods of a relaying server; an image forming apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a firewall of the first local network; and a monitoring device outside the first local network, wherein the two communicate via the Internet. However, Motoyama does not teach of a relaying server.

6. Lodwich teaches the network configuration of a printer located in a local network and connected to the Internet through a firewall server of the local network, and a relaying server outside the local network, wherein the printer and the relaying server communicate via the Internet.

7. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Lodwich because the teachings of Lodwich to implement a relaying server, wherein the relaying server is outside a local network of the printer, and wherein the relaying server and printer communicate via the Internet would improve the system of Motoyama by providing an intermediary apparatus in the network capable of storing and transferring information send by host computers, wherein the server may transfer data between local area networks.

8. As per claim 15, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 14, further comprising a database which stores a plurality of items of trouble type information and a plurality of items of restoration work information in correspondence with each other (Col 10, line 14-16; Col 9. lines 56-59. Database describing various information of the monitored device. Col 9, line 66-Col 10, line 3. Compares received information with information in database, and determines changes.).

9. As per claim 17, Motoyama teaches of transmitting restoration information from the monitoring device to the printer in response to received information (Col 9, line 66 - Col 10, line 6). However, Motoyama does not teach the system, wherein the relaying server provides the corresponding restoration information for retrieval by the image forming apparatus based on the trouble type information received from the image forming apparatus.

10. Lodwick teaches the concept of requesting information from a relay server (Paragraph 0066; 0068; 0072.).

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11. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Motoyama with the teachings of Lodwick because the teachings of Lodwick to implement a relay server for retrieving data would improve the system of Motoyama and Lodwick by increasing security due to initiating contact with the relay server, and increasing efficiency by initiating actions to change parameters.

12. As per claim 21, Motoyama does not teach the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 15, wherein the relaying server comprises the database.

13. Lodwick teaches of a relay server comprising a database (Paragraph 0061; 0063).

14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Lodwick because the teachings of Lodwick for a relay server to comprise a database would improve the system of Motoyama by providing a central location for printers on a local network to access and retrieve files transmitted by computers on different networks, which would improve efficiency and security.

15. As per claim 22, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 15, further comprising:

an administration apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network (Fig. 1; Col 3, lines 35-37. Monitoring device communicate through Internet. Col 4, lines 1-13. Stations in network);

wherein the administration apparatus comprises the database (Col 9, line 56-59; Col 10, line 48-51. Database.).

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16. As per claim 23, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises:

a detecting section which detects when a trouble occurs in the image forming apparatus (Col 8, lines 54-56; Col 11, lines 1-3. Detects trouble.); and

a judging section which determines a kind of the trouble (Col 8, lines 44-51. Determines if event requires communication and the method of communication.); and

wherein the image forming apparatus transmits the trouble type information in accordance with the determined kind of the trouble (Col 8, line 42-54. Transmits determined kind of trouble.).

17. Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama and Lodwick, in view of Motoyama, US Patent #5,887,216 (Motoyama '216 hereinafter).

18. As per claim 16, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 15, wherein each of the stored items of restoration work information correspond to the items of trouble type information as being restorable (Col 10, lines 3-6. Transmits commands to change parameter.). However, Motoyama does not teach explicitly teach of classifying the trouble type information as restorable and non-restorable trouble.

19. Motoyama '216 teaches of receiving problem information and determining if the problem is correctable. If the problem can be corrected, the service center transmits commands to correct the problem (Col 17, lines 41-46).

20. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Motoyama, Lodwick, and Motoyama '216 because the

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teachings of Motoyama '216 to determine if the problem can be correctable would improve the system of Motoyama and Lodwick by allowing the monitoring device to attempt corrections over the network if the type of problem is classified as correctable or performing a service call to correct the problem as taught by Motoyama '216.

21. As per claim 18, Motoyama does not teach the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 16, wherein the relaying server judges whether or not the image forming apparatus is able to conduct the automatic restoration process by itself by accessing the database.

22. Motoyama '216 teaches the concept of automatically communicating with a server center (Col 20, lines 15-19), and the service center determining if the apparatus can correct itself by sending a command to change the parameters (Col 17, lines 34-46).

23. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Motoyama, Lodwick, and Motoyama '216 because the teachings of Motoyama '216 to determine whether or not the image informing apparatus is able to conduct automatic process would improve the system of Motoyama and Lodwick by allowing the image forming apparatus to correct itself if possible, thus avoiding a service call to correct the apparatus.

24. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama and Lodwick, in view of Bealkowski et al, US Patent #5,878,256 (Bealkowski hereinafter).

25. As per claim 19, Motoyama teaches of maintaining a complete service history of the printer (Col 10, line 48-50) and of a printer that performs commands (Col 10, lines 4-6; Col 12,

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lines 38-59). However, Motoyama does not teach the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein when the automatic restoration process is carried out, the transmitting section of the image forming apparatus transmits result information specifying a result of the automatic restoration process to the relaying server.

26. Bealkowski teaches of updating firmware in an apparatus to correct errors where a status message is provided indicating if the update procedure was successful or not successful (Col 14, lines 8, 32-40).

27. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Motoyama, Lodwick, and Bealkowski because since Motoyama teaches of configuring and correcting problems of a printer, it would be desirable feature for the monitoring device to receive information regarding the status of the performed operations. The teachings of Bealkowski to receive the status information of a process would improve the system of Motoyama and Lodwick by providing information, which would allow the monitoring device to determine if the problem was corrected, thus performing additional functions to correct problems if necessary.

28. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama, Lodwick, and Bealkowski, in view of Konishi, US Publication #2004/0012807 (Konishi hereinafter).

29. As per claim 20, Motoyama teaches of an administration apparatus system, further comprising: an administration apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network (Col 3, lines 35-37. Monitoring device communicate through Internet. Col 4, lines 1-13. Stations in network.).

However, Motoyama does not teach, wherein the administration apparatus accesses the relaying server to obtain the result information.

30. Konishi teaches the concept that a host computer may obtain status information stored on a relay server (Paragraph 0118-0119).

31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Motoyama, Lodwick, Bealkowski, and Konishi because the teachings of Konishi for a computer to obtain status information from a relay server would improve the system of Motoyama, Lodwick, and Bealkowski by allowing the host computer to obtain information from an intermediate apparatus without the difficulty of accessing the image forming apparatus located on different local networks behind firewalls.

32. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama and Lodwick, in view of Wiklof et al, US Patent #6,618,162 (Wiklof hereinafter).

33. As per claim 24, Motoyama does not teach the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein the restoration work information is periodically updated.

34. Wiklof teaches the concept of updating restoration work, such as a printer's software (Col 6, lines 25-26), where software may include bug fixes (Col 5, lines 22-25).

35. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Motoyama, Lodwick, and Wiklof because the teachings of Wiklof to provide a printer's software as the restoration work and update the software would enhance the system of Motoyama and Lodwick by allowing the monitoring device to correct

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software problems in the printer and ensuring that image forming apparatus operates with an update software for optimum performance.

Response to Arguments

36. Applicant's arguments filed 3/20/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that (1) Although Motoyama can access the Internet, Motoyama discloses that the business machine should not use "connectionless-mode" communication unless the communication is low-priority (e.g. Internet email). If the communication is of high-priority, the communication should be conducted in a "connection-mode" of communication (e.g. telephone or ISDN.); and (2) Konishi does not disclose an image forming apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, and the relaying server outside the first local network, and communication between the two taking place via the internet.

Examiner traverse Applicant's arguments:

37. As to point (1), firstly, even though Motoyama discloses that the business machine should not use "connectionless-mode" communication for high priority communication as argued by the Applicant, Motoyama nonetheless teaches that the system is capable of transmitting trouble type information and restoration work information through the Internet, and "should not" does not imply that the system is incapable of doing so. Therefore, the concept of transmitting trouble type and restoration work information to an image forming apparatus through the Internet was known and taught by Motoyama. Secondly, the method of communicating by "connection-less mode" and "connection-mode" depends on the priority of communication, thus a low priority problem and correction may use the "connection-less mode", thus the Internet.

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Finally, Motoyama teaches that the business machine can alternatively access the Internet through a telephone line or ISDN via an Internet access provider (Col 12, lines 59-63), which are "connection-mode" of communications. For these reason, Motoyama teaches the limitations of Applicant's claims.

38. As to point (2), due to Applicant's amendments, Konishi has been withdrawn from the current rejection.

Conclusion

39. This action is non-final due to Applicant's filing of RCE.

40. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

41. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8AM to 5PM and every other Friday.

42. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on 571 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


43. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 17, 2006

JJ



John Follansbee
SPB2154